

22 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: George L. Cary

SUBJECT : The President's Action Plan for the
Defense of the Agency

1. Subject plan does a good job of outlining the delivery systems but not the message. It reminds me of DDO recruitment efforts where a lot of time is spent on developing an agent but only a few minutes on the recruitment pitch.

2. The Action Plan is much broader than simply the confrontation with the House Select Committee on the right of the Congress to declassify Executive branch information. It deals with the future in terms of Executive and congressional oversight of the Agency (by the formulation of legislation and Executive Orders). It also deals with the past in terms of our alleged abuses in the area of domestic operations, covert action, wasteful collection systems, bad intelligence assessment, and the distortion of intelligence for political purposes. Finally, it deals with whether the Congress has the right to declassify information to expose these alleged abuses.

3. The Director has already spoken on the requirements of legislation and Executive Orders. He might need to better articulate his proposals and explanations in this area. In terms of the alleged abuses, I still feel that we must tell our own story and not let it leak out in bits and pieces or await the final judgment of a possibly politically conditioned report of the House or Senate committees. With regard to the confrontation, I still recommend a political compromise which will avoid a court test.

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Associate Legislative Counsel

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